

# *Guess How Much I Love You*

# HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE



Four brand new stories by the author of  
the bestselling classic *Guess How Much I Love You*

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# *Guess How Much I Love You*

## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE



Sam McBratney



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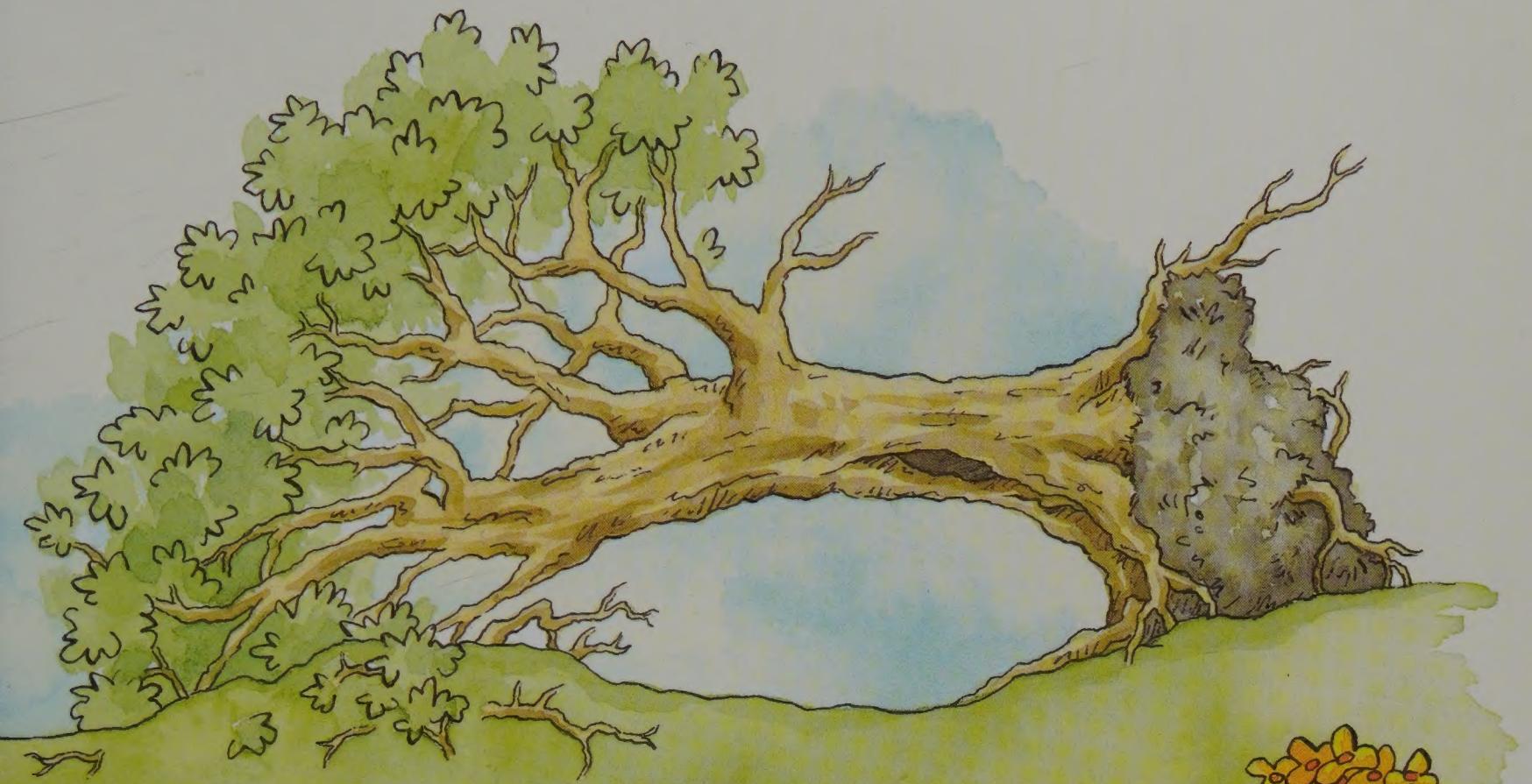
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# The Hiding Tree

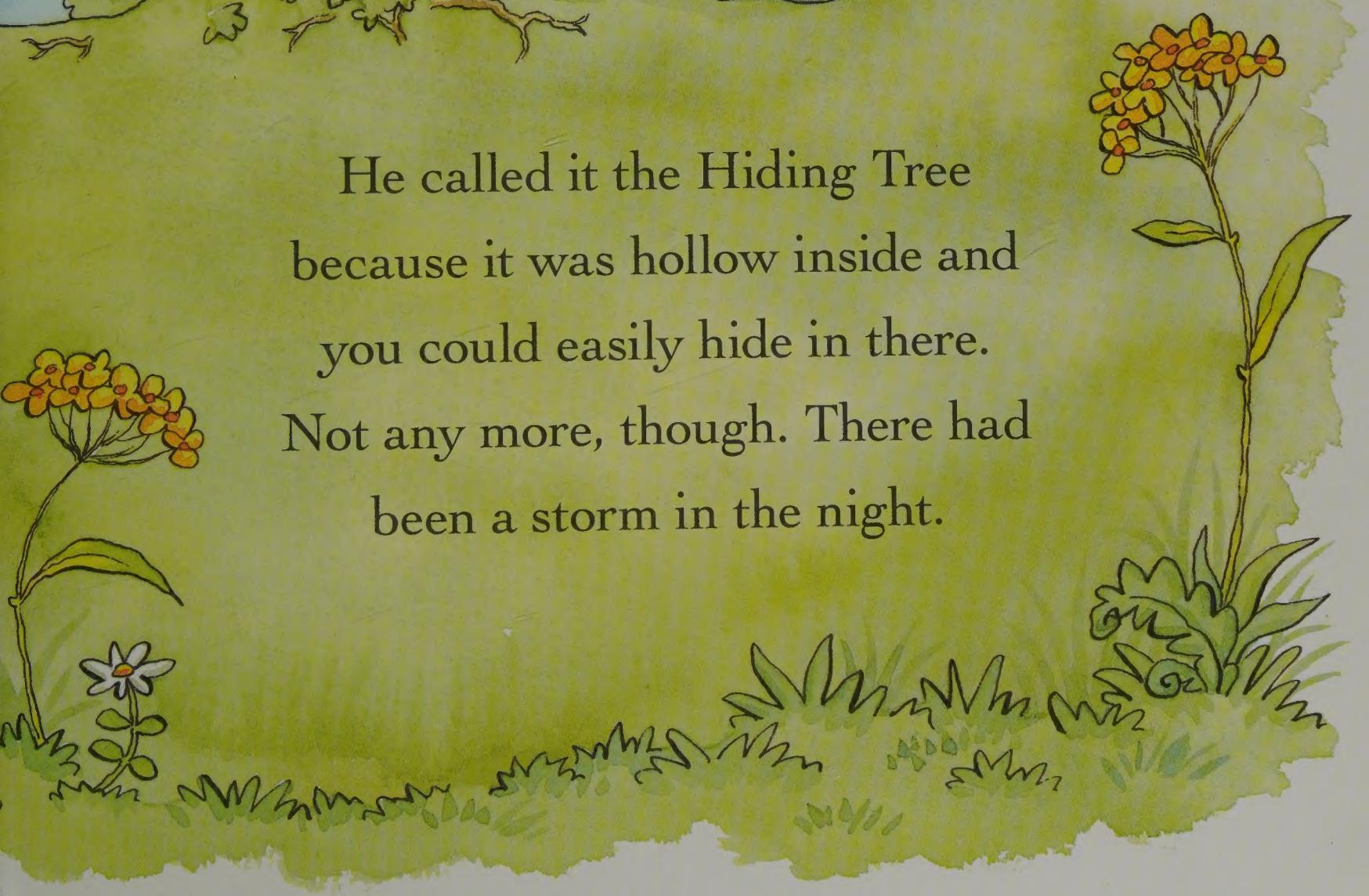
Little Nutbrown Hare woke up one morning and could hardly believe his eyes.

His favourite tree, the Hiding Tree,  
was lying on the ground.





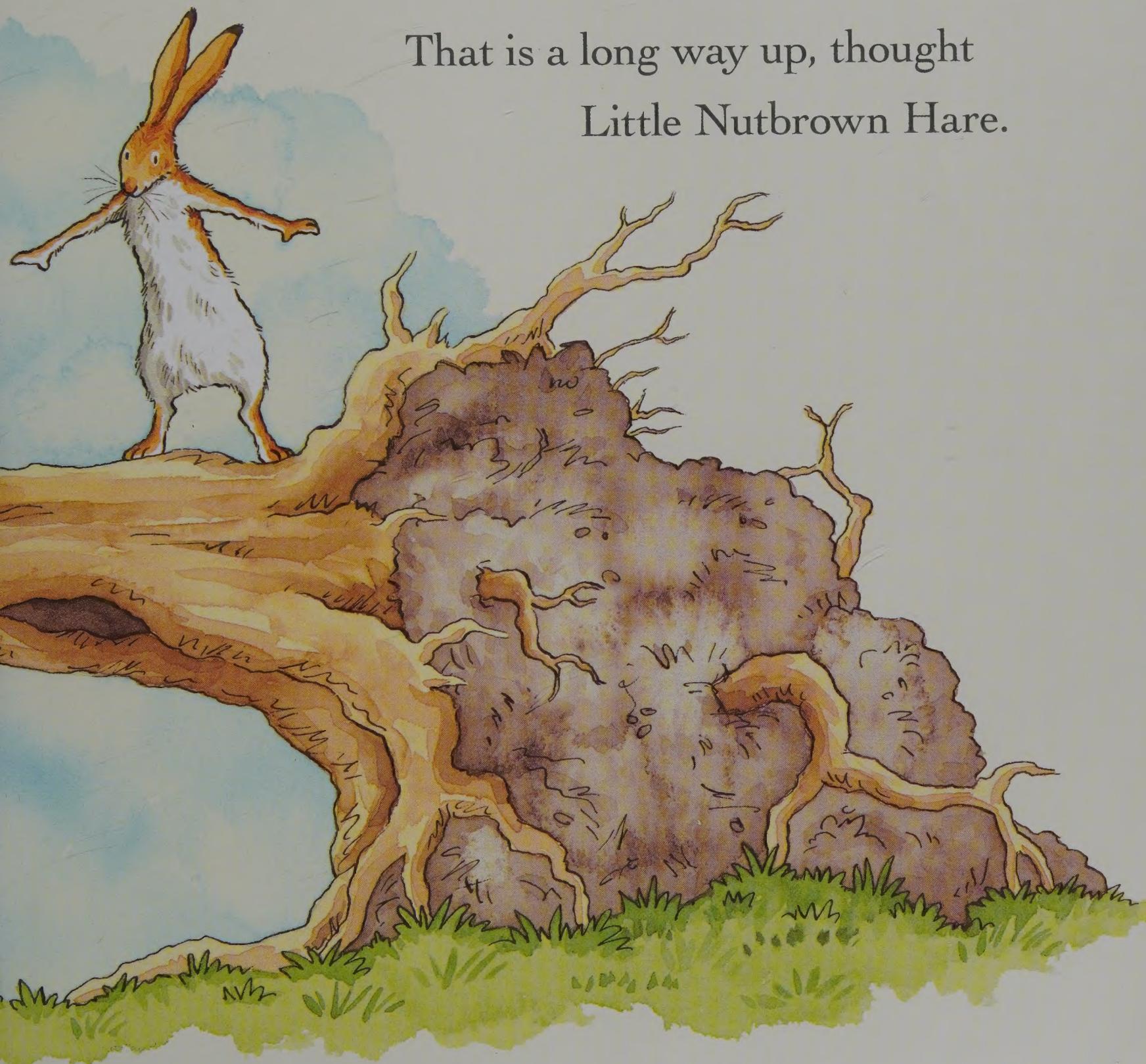
He called it the Hiding Tree  
because it was hollow inside and  
you could easily hide in there.  
Not any more, though. There had  
been a storm in the night.





Big Nutbrown Hare scrambled up through  
the roots and stood on the trunk of the tree.

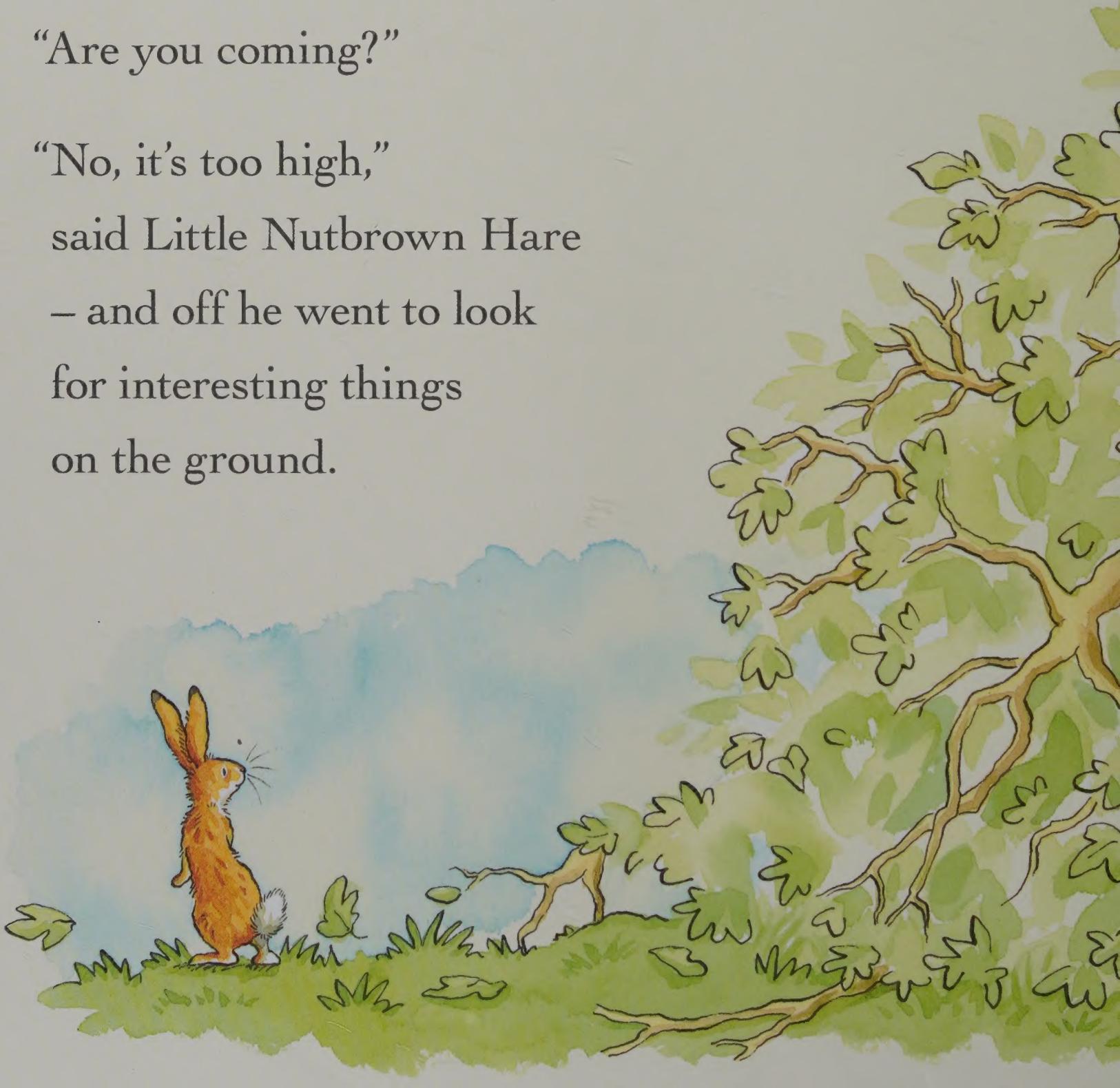
That is a long way up, thought  
Little Nutbrown Hare.



With a hop and a skip, Big Nutbrown Hare  
went to the other end and peeped  
through the leaves.

“Are you coming?”

“No, it’s too high,”  
said Little Nutbrown Hare  
– and off he went to look  
for interesting things  
on the ground.



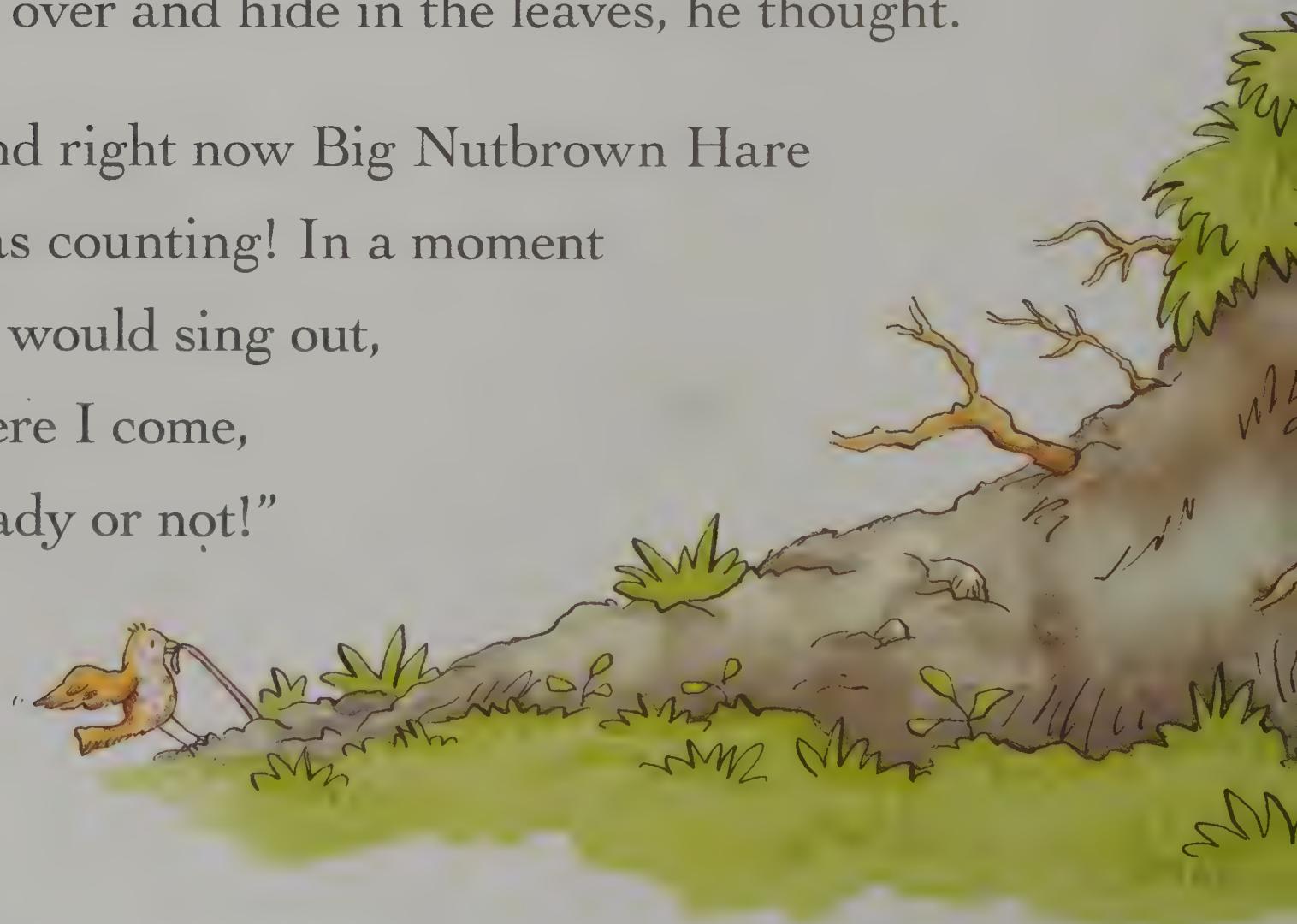


In the afternoon he played hide-and-seek with Big Nutbrown Hare; and when it was his turn to hide, he came once more to where his favourite tree, the Hiding Tree, was lying on its side.

That would be the best hiding-place ever!

Up through the roots he scrambled. I could go over and hide in the leaves, he thought.

And right now Big Nutbrown Hare was counting! In a moment he would sing out, “Here I come, ready or not!”





With some careful hops ... then a bit of a wobble ...  
and one last good jump ...



Little Nutbrown Hare went along  
the trunk of the tree to hide among  
the branches and the leaves.



Now it was important to be absolutely still.



Big Nutbrown Hare looked here,  
and there ...





and everywhere

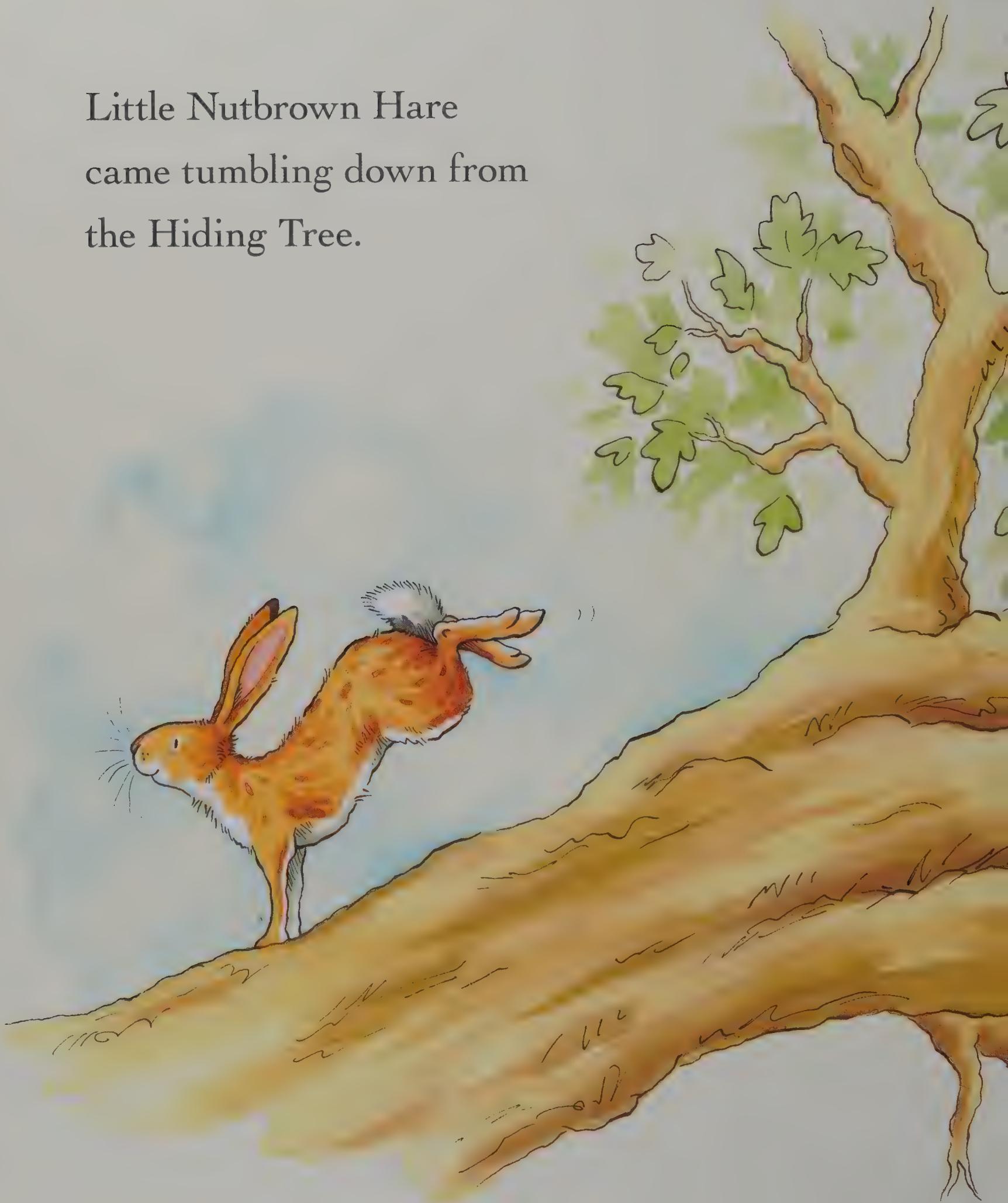
– or so he thought.

“I give up,”  
he shouted at last.

“You must have the best  
hiding-place ever!”



Little Nutbrown Hare  
came tumbling down from  
the Hiding Tree.





Big Nutbrown Hare was amazed.

“But I thought you were afraid to go up there!”

“I’m not afraid any more,”  
laughed Little Nutbrown Hare.





# On Cloudy Mountain

Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare set out one morning to climb the Cloudy Mountain. They liked to be up high and look down at the fields; and besides, some of the plants that grew on Cloudy Mountain were very tasty.



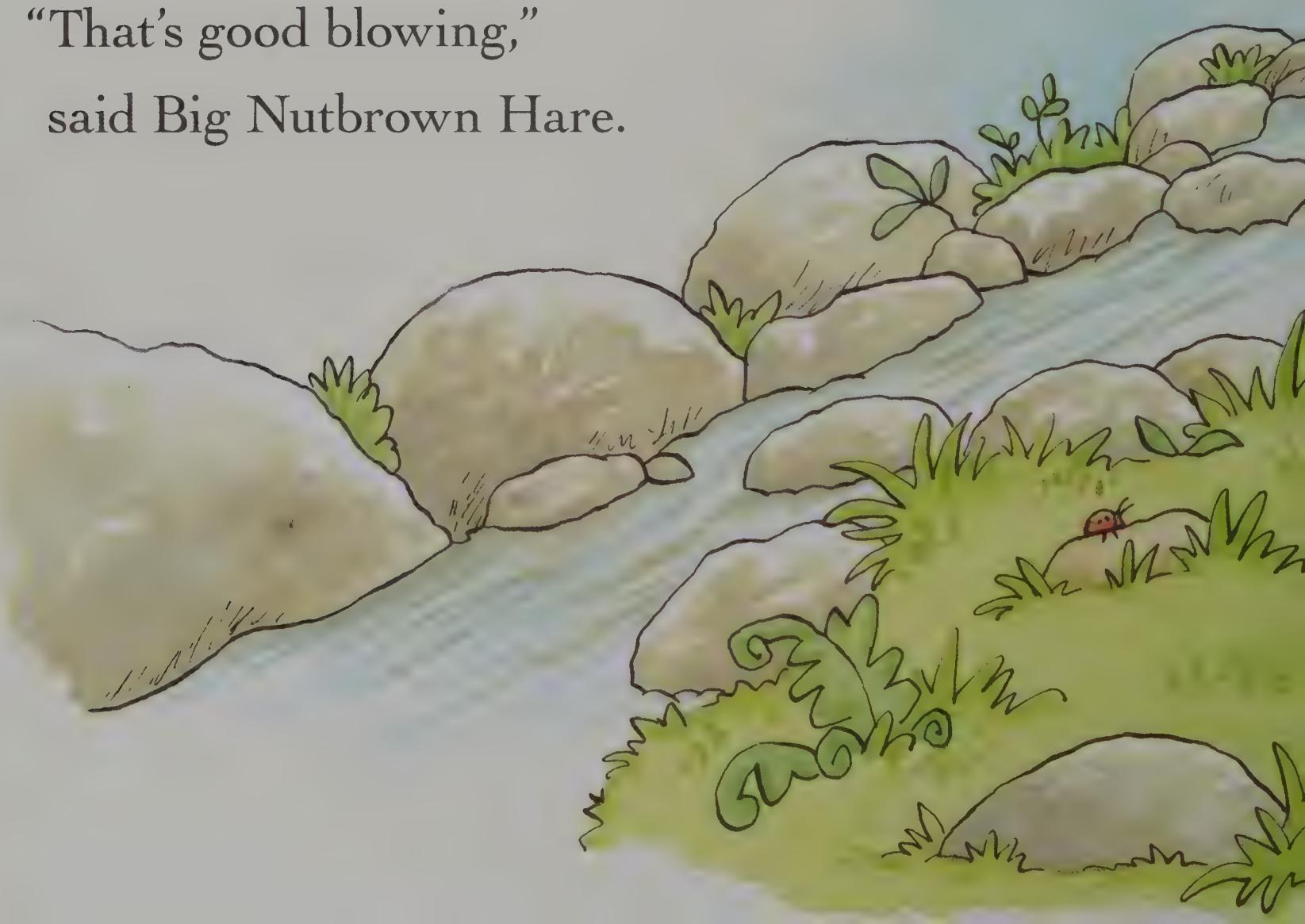


After lunch, Little Nutbrown Hare  
played in the waterfalls among the rocks.  
And then – better still – he found some  
dandelions just ready for blowing.

One ... two ... three ... *whooo*.

Half of a seedhead was gone.

“That’s good blowing,”  
said Big Nutbrown Hare.





One ... two ... three ... *whooo.*

Little Nutbrown Hare did an even better blow.

Away went the dandelion seeds,  
almost every one.

And there were so many more,  
all ready to be blown!





Big Nutbrown Hare had noticed something, however. The clouds were coming further and further down the mountain.

Soon they wouldn't be able to see a thing.

"We have to go home now," he said.

"I'm still blowing!" said Little Nutbrown Hare.

"I know," said Big Nutbrown Hare, "but the clouds are coming and we have to go."





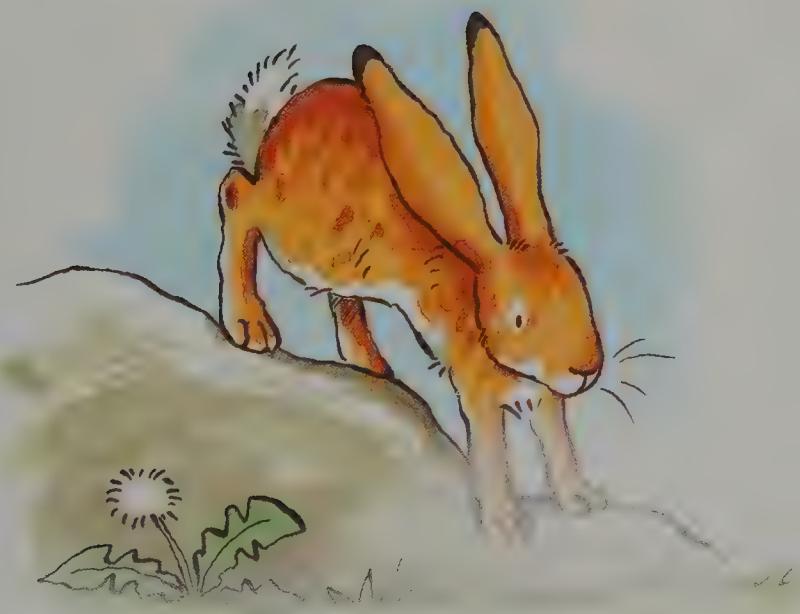
You're spoiling all my fun,  
Little Nutbrown Hare  
was thinking.



But the mist was  
getting thicker  
every moment.



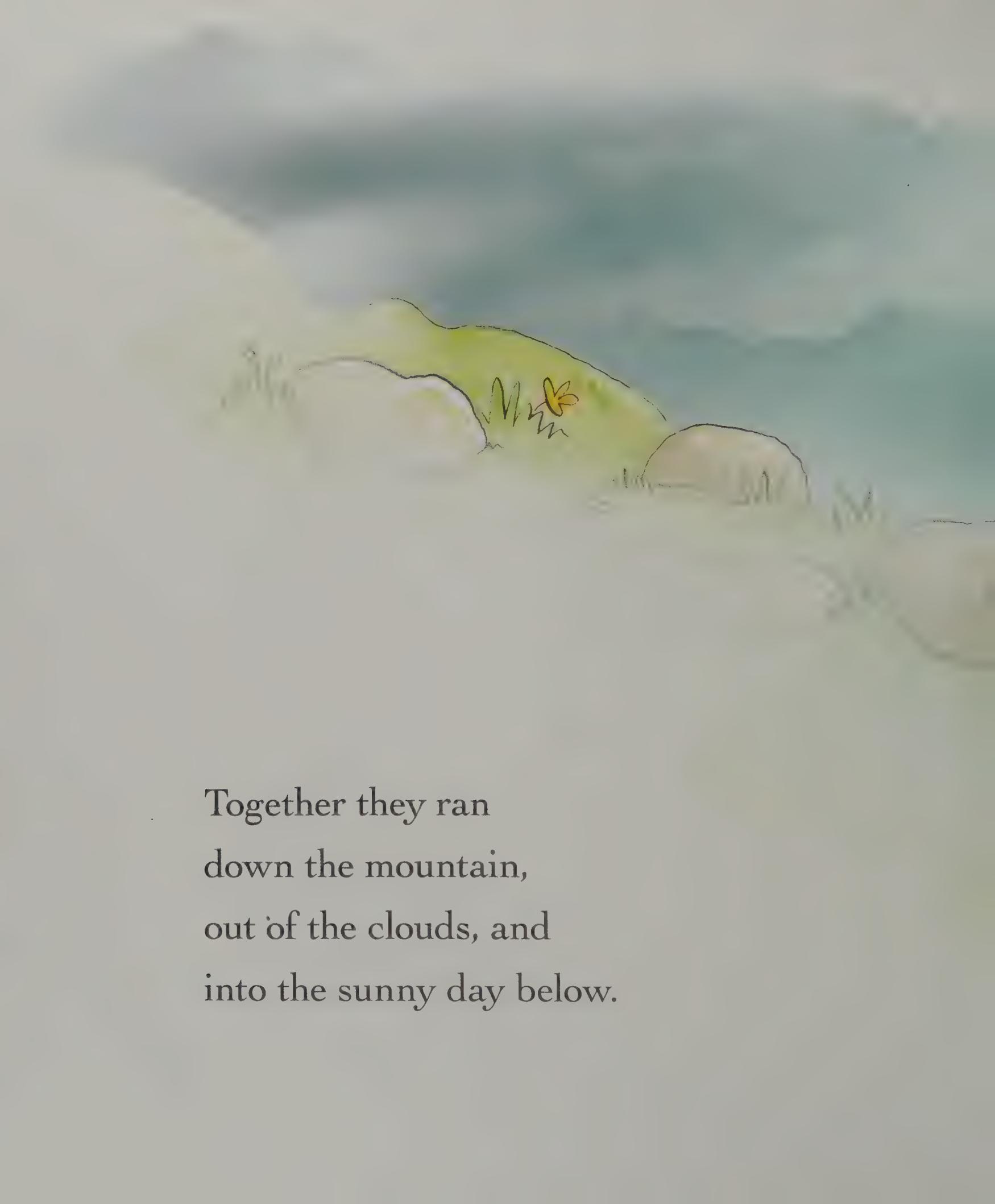
Which way was up  
and which was down?





All of a sudden Big Nutbrown Hare  
was right there beside him.

“Come with me now,” he said.



Together they ran  
down the mountain,  
out of the clouds, and  
into the sunny day below.

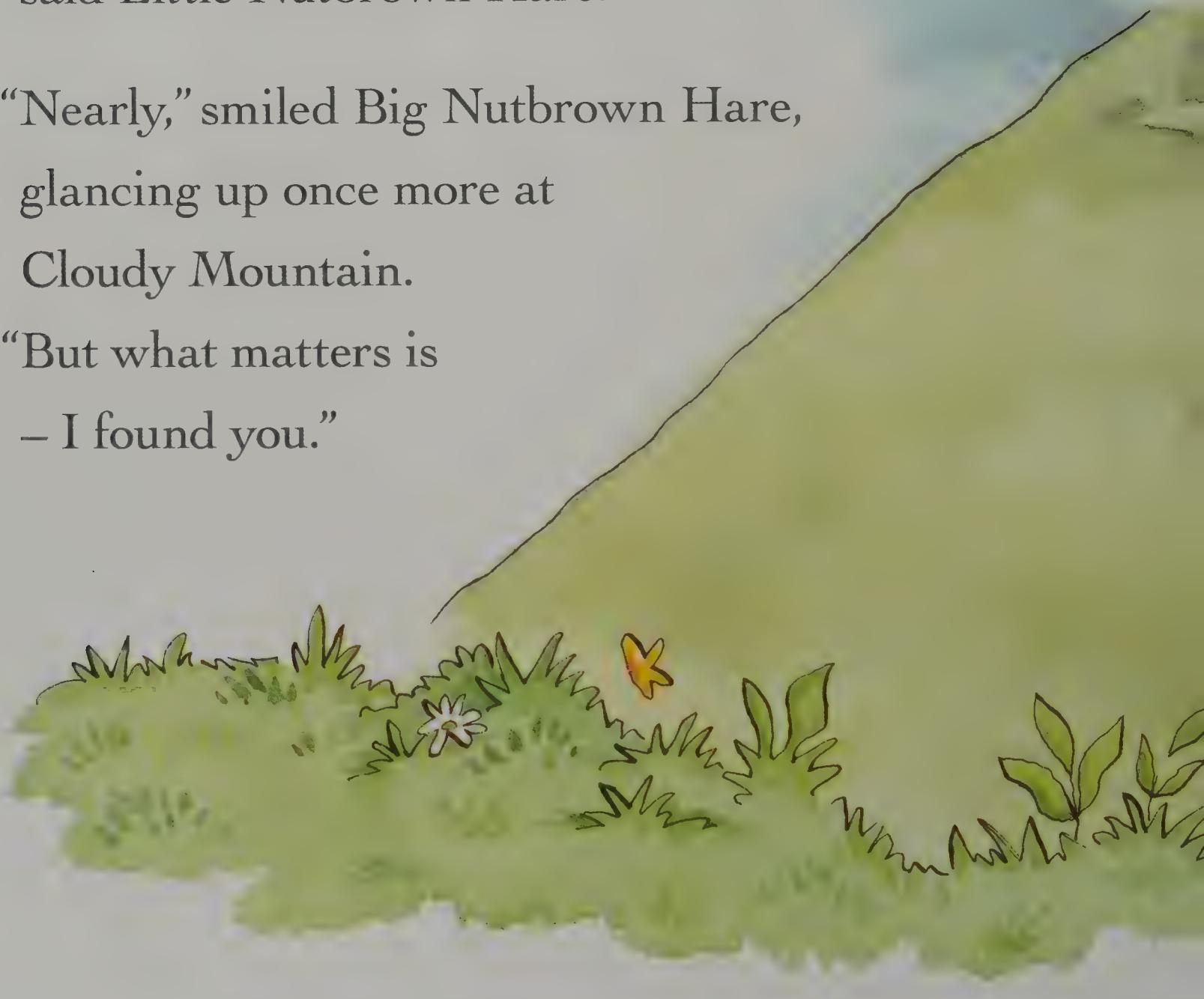


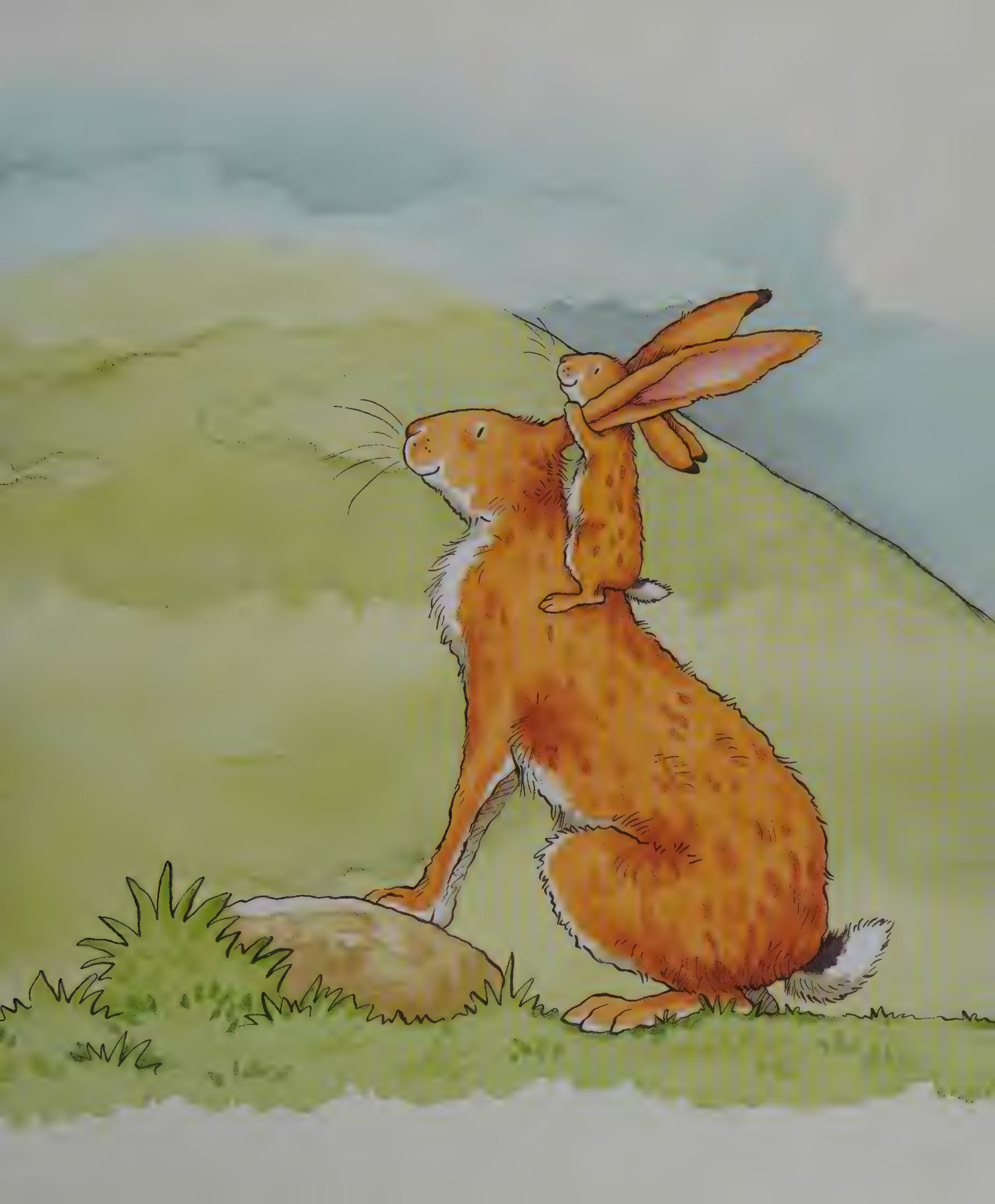
“Well, that certainly was an adventure!”  
said Big Nutbrown Hare. “I’m sorry  
I had to stop your fun like that.”

“You nearly got lost!”  
said Little Nutbrown Hare.

“Nearly,” smiled Big Nutbrown Hare,  
glancing up once more at  
Cloudy Mountain.

“But what matters is  
– I found you.”

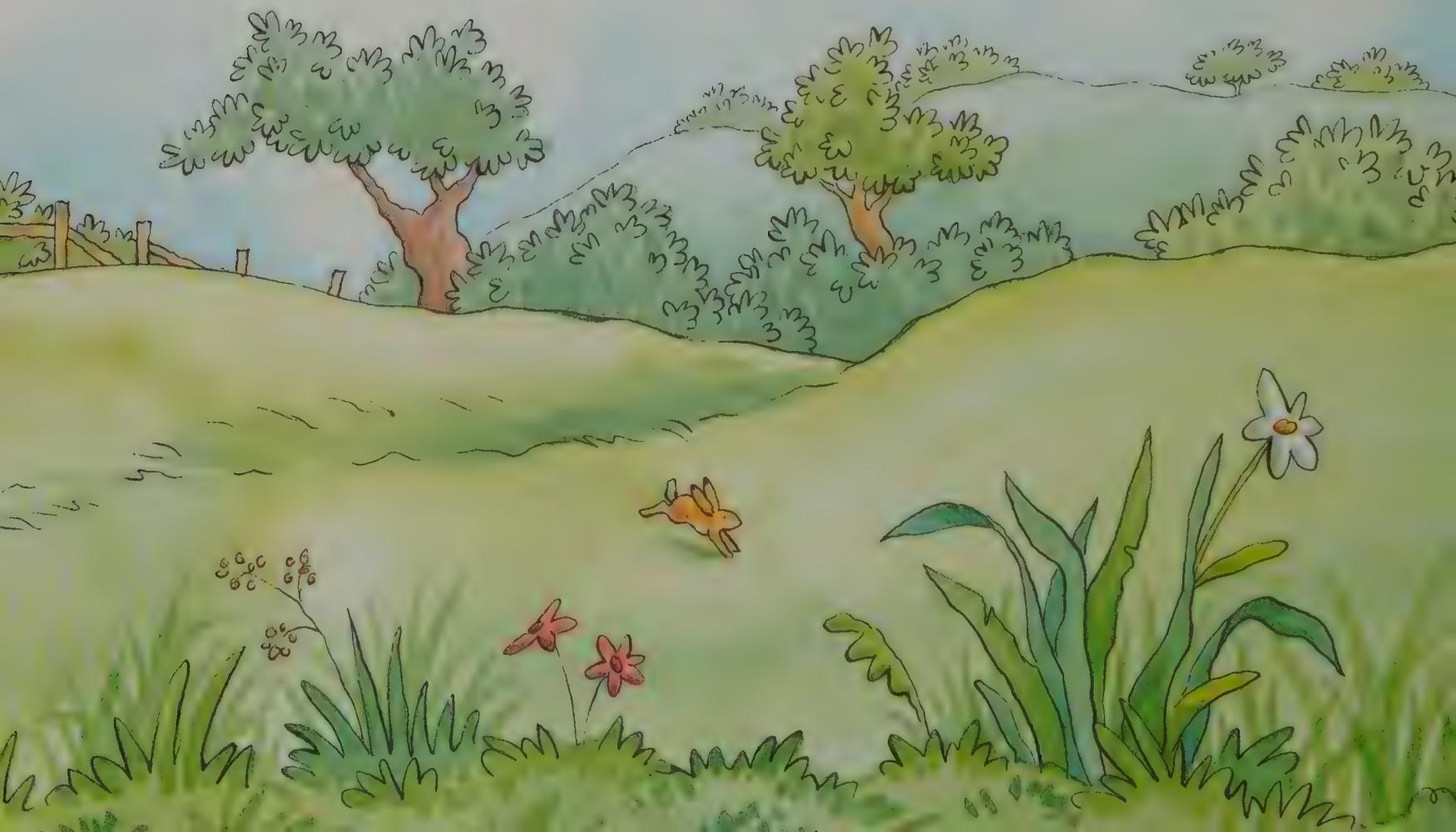




# The Far Field

Early one morning Little Nutbrown Hare  
ran all the way to the Far Field.

He called it the Far Field because it was further  
than the Hiding Tree ... over the river ...  
and beyond the Cloudy Mountain.





He discovered an interesting hole beneath  
the trees, and wondered what was in there.





“Come away,” said a voice. “It’s best  
not to bother with holes in the ground.”

It was Big Nutbrown Hare watching over him.

So Little Nutbrown Hare came away  
from the hole and jumped over  
some toadstools instead.





There was a pond nearby. The leaves of the water-plants looked like stepping stones across the water.



“No, no,” said a voice,  
“that water might be deep. Come away.”

It was Big Nutbrown Hare  
telling him to be careful.



So Little Nutbrown Hare skipped away from  
the pond and found another place to play.

Then, in the thickness of the meadow grass,  
he discovered a birds' nest. Four speckled  
eggs lay there, lovely and smooth.



“Come away,” someone whispered.  
“Birds don’t like anyone near their nest.”  
Once again Big Nutbrown Hare was close by.

Together they hopped away from the nest with its  
precious eggs, to search the meadow grass  
for juicy plants to eat.

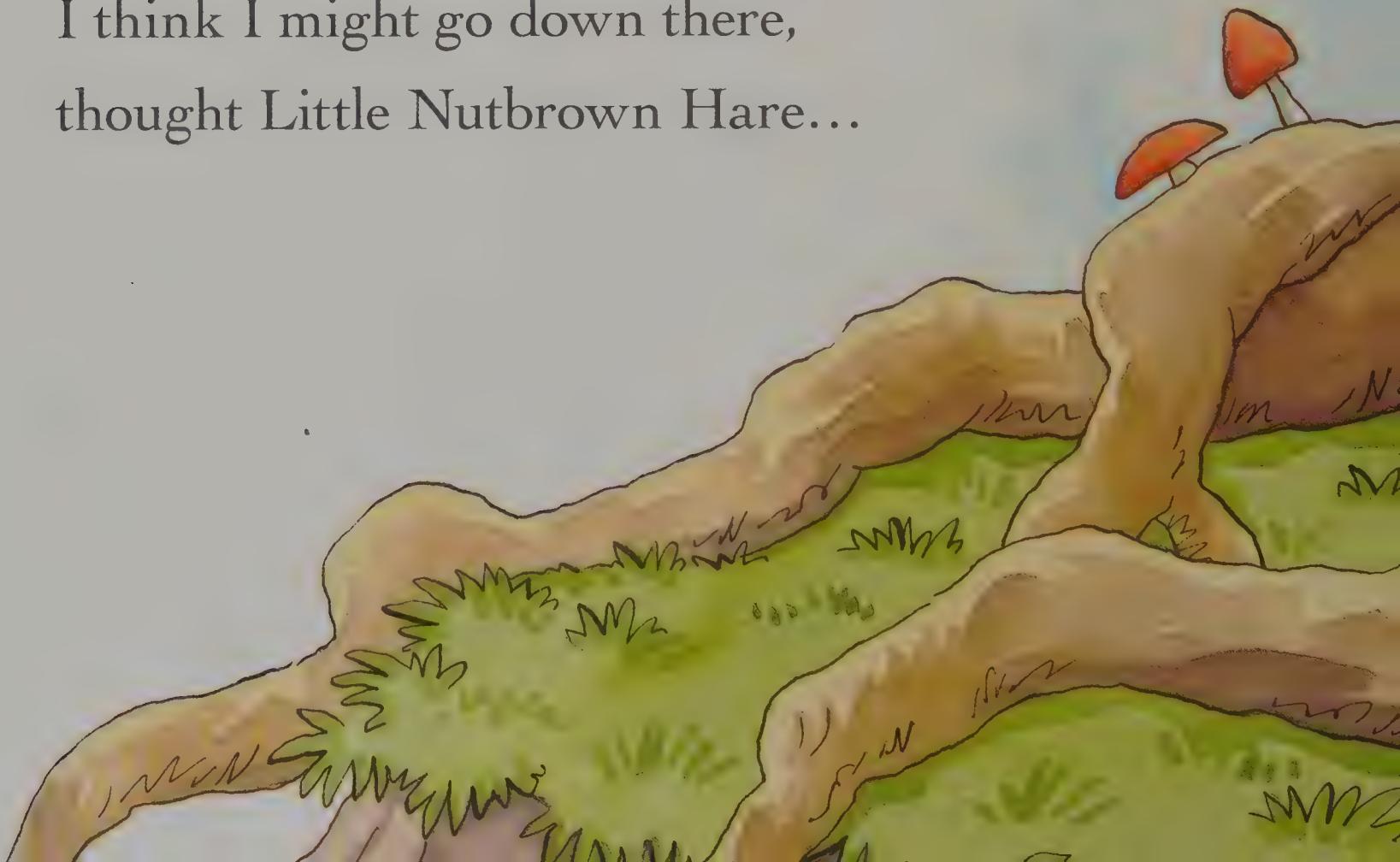


Later that day, Little Nutbrown Hare went back to the interesting hole beneath the trees. Still he couldn't see a thing in there, which made him wonder all the more.

What would be down a hole like that?

He looked around and saw no one else. He was quite alone.

I think I might go down there, thought Little Nutbrown Hare...





Then a voice said, "No.  
Dark holes are dangerous."

This time it was his own little voice  
inside his head, and it was  
telling him to be careful.





So Little Nutbrown Hare came away from  
the hole and chased some daddy-long-legs  
through the Far Field instead.





# Coming Home

Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare  
were westering home at the end of the day.

“Can you guess the place I like best in the  
whole world?” said Little Nutbrown Hare,  
who loved to play games.

“Your favourite place?”  
asked Big Nutbrown Hare.

“Yes. In the world.”



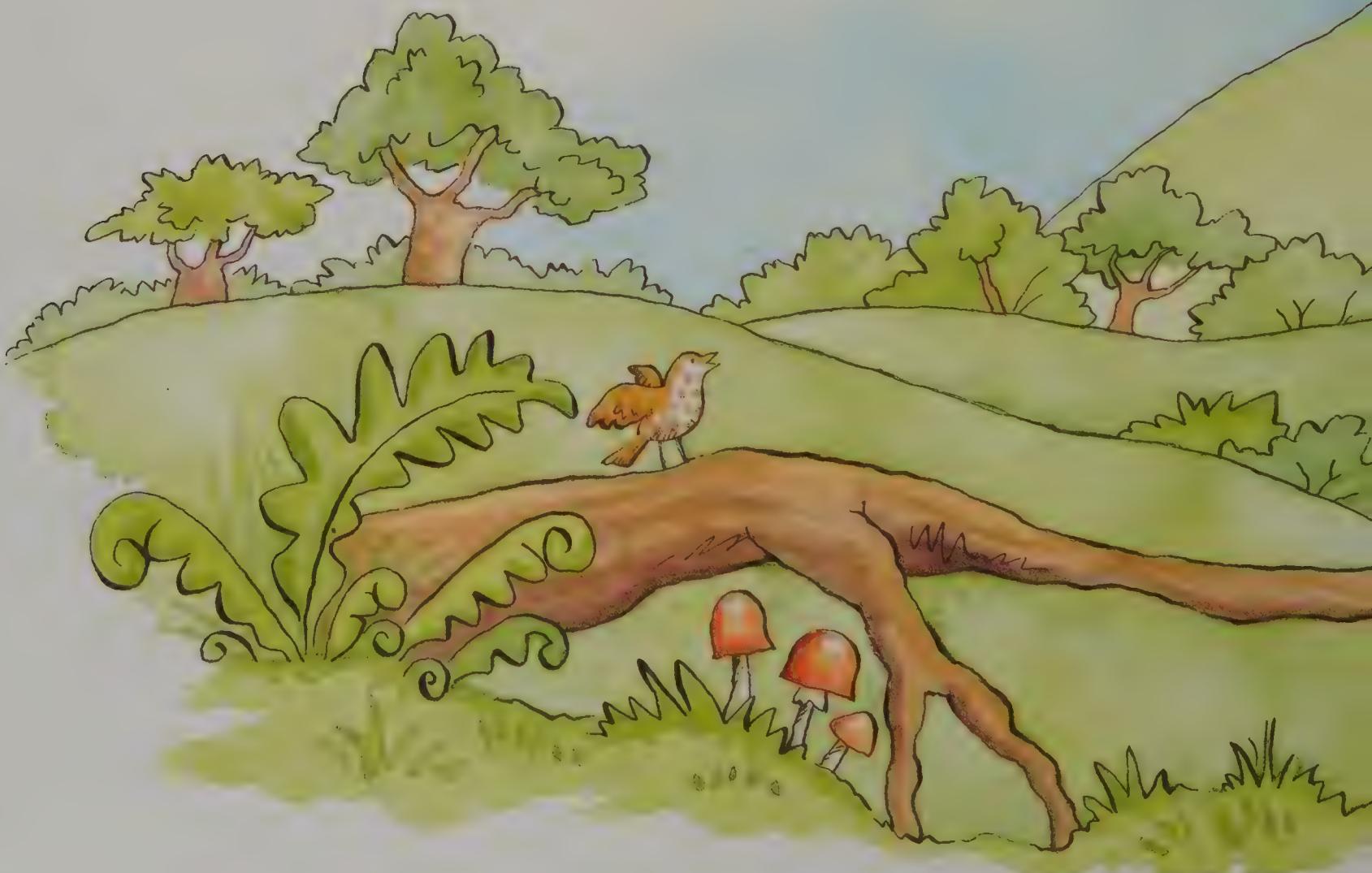


Big Nutbrown Hare began to think.  
He knew that Little Nutbrown Hare  
liked lots of places, but which one  
did he like best?

“Is it ... Cloudy Mountain?”



“No, that’s too high up.”





On they went, hopping home together.  
Big Nutbrown Hare was thinking so hard  
that he didn't watch where he was going.

“Wet feet!” he said. “Ah –  
is your favourite place ...  
the river?”



“No,” laughed Little Nutbrown Hare.

“That’s too wet.”



On they went hopping home, until  
Big Nutbrown Hare suddenly stopped.  
He'd just had a good idea.



“Is your favourite place *across* the river?  
Could it be ... the Far Field?”

“No, that’s too far away.”



On they ran quite quickly now, for the sun  
was sinking fast. Then Big Nutbrown Hare  
spotted something that made him think.



“Do we play games in this place  
you’re thinking of? Could it be  
... the Hiding Tree?”



“No. But my favourite place has some leaves.”

Goodness me! thought Big Nutbrown Hare.  
Not Cloudy Mountain. Not the river.  
Not the Far Field. Some leaves,  
but not the Hiding Tree.



“Well ... I think you’ll  
have to tell me,”  
he said at last.



“We’re here! *Home* is my best place of all.”

“Well, of course!”

said Big Nutbrown Hare.

“I should have guessed!”



The early stars were shining already.

Big Nutbrown Hare settled  
Little Nutbrown Hare into his bed of leaves,  
where soon he closed his eyes.



“And where *you* are,” whispered  
Big Nutbrown Hare, “is the best place  
in the whole world for me.”

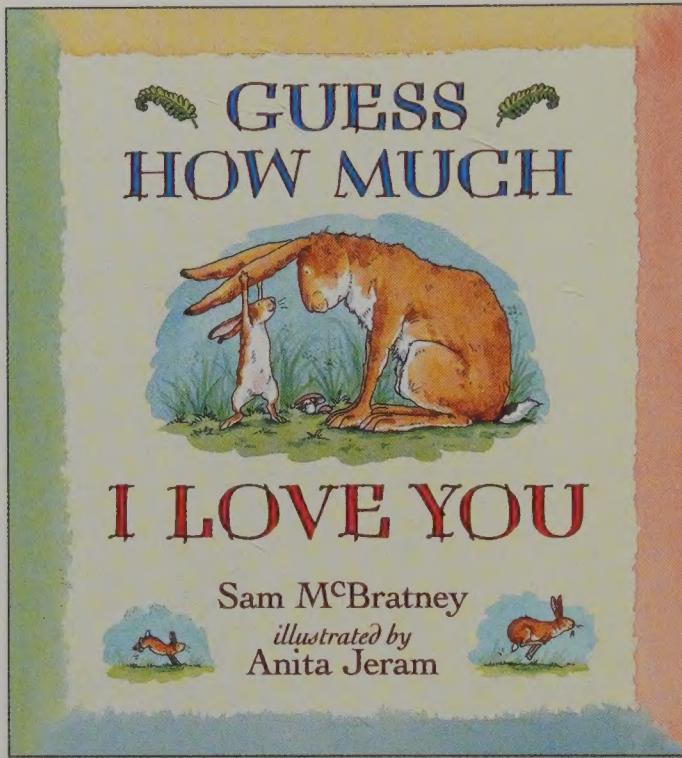






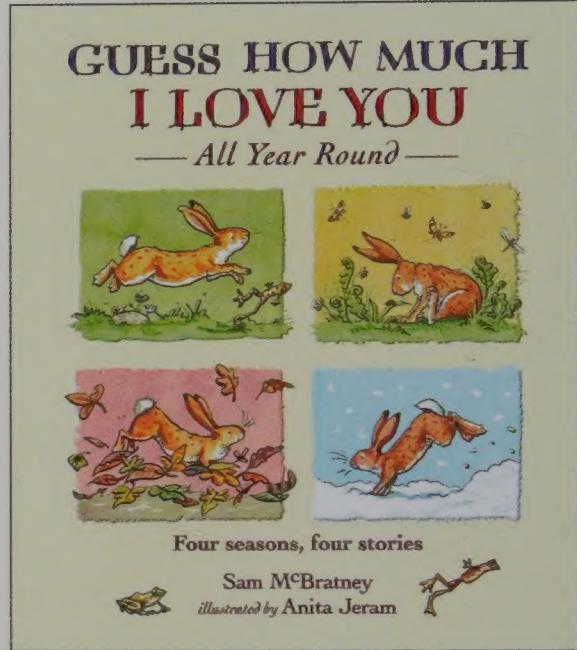


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